

Hamilton
School Committee Report
1891-92

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

Town of Hamilton

FOR THE YEAR

1891-92.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE :

JOSEPH P. LOVERING,
ALDEN B. CHADWICK,
JAMES C. ALVORD,

Term Expires.
1892.
1893.
1894.

REPORT.

The School Committee for the year ending March presents the following report :—

The amount appropriated by the town for schools,	
at the annual meeting in March, was	\$1,400.00
Amount received from Massachusetts school fund,	200.00
Dog licenses,	82.84

Amount to be expended,	\$1,162.84
Paid teachers of summer schools,	\$960.00
“ “ winter schools,	540.00
Paid for building fires,	42.00
“ “ fuel,	117.25—\$1,659.25
Amount unexpended,	\$23.59

NORTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term—Teacher, MISS GRACE C. DANE.

Length of term in months,	6
Wages of teacher per month,	\$32
Whole number of pupils,	21
Average membership,	18
Average attendance,	15 2-3
Number of pupils under five years of age,	1
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	0
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	11

Winter Term—Teacher, MISS GRACE C. DANE.

Length of term in months,	3
Wages of teacher per month,	\$36
Whole number of pupils,	21
Average membership,	21
Average attendance,	18
Number of pupils under five years of age,	0
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	1
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	10

EAST SCHOOL.

Summer Term—Teachers, MISS ALICE B. DEARBORN and
MISS SADIE B. CHAPMAN.

Length of term in months,	6
Wages of teacher per month,	\$32
Whole number of pupils,	29
Average membership,	26
Average attendance,	22
Number of pupils under five years of age,	0
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	1
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	18

Winter Term—Teacher, MISS SADIE B. CHAPMAN.

Length of term in months,	3
Wages of teacher per month,	\$36
Whole number of pupils,	24
Average attendance,	23
Average membership,	19 2-3
Number of pupils under five years of age,	0
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	1
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	14

WEST SCHOOL.

Summer Term—Teacher, EVERETT A. SMITH.

Length of term in months,	6
Wages of teacher per month,	\$32
Whole number of pupils,	33
Average membership,	29 1-3
Average attendance,	25 1-6
Number of pupils under five years of age,	1
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	1
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	20

Winter Term—Teacher, EVERETT A. SMITH.

Length of term in months,	3
Wages of teacher per month,	\$36
Whole number of pupils,	29
Average membership,	26 2-3
Average attendance,	20 2-3
Number of pupils under five years of age,	0
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	0
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	17

CENTRE SCHOOL.

Summer Term—Teachers, MISS MARIE W. TYLER and Miss
SUSIE L. LORD

Length of term in months,	6
Wages of teacher per month,	\$32
Whole number of pupils,	22
Average membership,	19 2-3
Average attendance,	16 5-6
Number of pupils under five years of age,	1
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	1
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	11

Winter term—Teacher, MISS SUSIE L. LORD.

Length of term in months,	3
Wages of teacher per month,	\$36
Whole number of pupils,	22
Average membership,	21
Average attendance,	17
Number of pupils under five years of age,	0
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	2
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	11

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term—Teacher, MISS MABEL A. GORDON.

Length of term in months,	3
Wages of teacher per month,	\$32
Whole number of pupils,	41
Average membership,	30 2-3
Average attendance,	29
Number of pupils under five years of age,	0
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	0
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	22

Winter Term—Teacher, MISS ANNIE W. WOODBURY.

Length of term in months,	3
Wages of teacher per month,	\$36
Whole number of pupils,	36
Average membership,	26 2-3
Average attendance,	23
Number of pupils under five years of age,	0
Number of pupils over fifteen years of age,	0
No. of pupils between eight and fourteen years of age,	20

Your committee would report a satisfactory year in the schools, taking them as a whole. There has been so much sickness in town that the work has not moved along as

smoothly as might be desired. Especially has this cause disturbed the on-going of the New South School, for Miss Gordon was unable to come back after the end of the fall term, and the winter term was divided between two teachers. With this exception, the schools have been as satisfactory as could well be expected. The teachers have been faithful and industrious. The committee have endeavored to impress upon them the necessity of good order, and are sure that the teachers have all honestly striven to follow out their instructions, although of course some have been more successful than others. It is the belief of this committee that the ideal ungraded school is that in which the same teacher—provided a good one is secured—continues to hold sway from year to year. They congratulate the town, therefore, on having secured such teachers for two of the schools, and they have marked from term to term during the last year an increasing improvement in those districts.

The wisdom of the town in erecting a school house in the New South district has been fully proven during the last year by the large attendance of scholars. The number, according to the register, has exceeded that of any other district. The shape taken by the growth of population in this part of the town has amply shown that the situation of the school house was wisely chosen.

Your committee have made but two important changes in the course of studies. Mental arithmetic has been introduced. The text book chosen after careful study is the old and popular one of Greenleaf. This has been added as an entirely new study and in no way displaces the regular course in arithmetic. This introduction is felt to be one of great importance, and the results of a careful drill in it were very visible at the last examination in an increased quickness of mind on the part of the scholars.

Latin has also been introduced, at the urgent solicitation of some of the parents, into two of the schools where the

teachers are capable of giving instruction in that language. It was felt to be an experiment at the very beginning and the committee are not as yet convinced that it is either a safe or a beneficial addition to the regular course. While perhaps the wisest course in both instances was to allow this change, the teachers, as a rule, have so many lessons, that the simpler and shorter the schedule, the better the instruction. It is not intended that ability to teach the ancient languages shall now or ever be a requisite in any candidate applying for a position as teacher in any one of our districts. The Committee will, however, as in these cases, always be glad to comply with any reasonable request from the parents.

Perhaps, as our annual town meeting is soon to come off, and we are to elect our town officers and to transact other business of importance for the best permanent good of the town, it may not be out of place here for the school committee to suggest a few thoughts for consideration.

The prosperity of our town and its citizens to a certain extent depend not only upon good roads and walks, the rightful and honest care of all its poor, but upon a good system of schools rightly managed, for the highest growth of all its school children.

Low rates of taxation in any town are always to be desired, but not to such an extent as to cripple its growth or improvements in any one of its departments. Generally speaking, most people are always ready to pay a fair compensation if they only get something for their money. We all want good roads to ride on and walks to walk on, and we are not to forget also that our schools are to be well kept and well taught, that the school buildings are such that our children may pass six hours a day in them without suffering from heat or cold, or poor uncomfortable benches, or anything that may tend to greatly endanger their health and comfort.

The committee are of the opinion that some of our school houses greatly need to be re-seated the coming year, and that the town should be gladly willing to make the needed appro-

priations. We can soon, by doing a little each year, have our school houses ranking among the best in the commonwealth as a common country town.

The North school house should be re-seated at once. The seats in this house are in a very bad condition. The seats are terribly cut up and defaced, and not fit or suitable for any school house. They are too small and uncomfortable for children to sit in for any length of time.

The East school house needs much to be painted, and will then be in good order for some little time.

The Centre school house greatly needs a thorough looking after inside. This house cannot have much done to it until the town decides where it is to be permanently located.

JOSEPH P. LOVERING,	} School Committee.
ALDEN B. CHADWICK,	
JAMES C. ALVORD,	

